

Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 NIC-01 DRC-01 SAM-01 /095 W

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3886

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 12236

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJECT: MRS. GANDHI CRITICIZES COMMUNIST OPPOSITION IN
PARLIAMENT

1. THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE RAJYA SABHA TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER SEPTEMBER 12 THAT MRS. GANDHI SHARPLY CRITICIZED THE COMMUNIST OPPOSITION IN PARLIAMENT DURING A MEETING OF THE CONGRESS PARLIAMENTARY PARTY, CALLED JUST AFTER THE SEPTEMBER 11 TERMINATION OF THE MONSOON SESSION OF PARLIAMENT. ACCORDING TO THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, WHO ATTENDED THE MEETING, THE PRIME MINISTER BEGAN HER PRESENTATION TO THE CONGRESS MPS BY EXPRESSING EXTREME IRRITATION AT COMMUNIST PARLIAMENTARY TACTICS WHICH SHE CLAIMED WERE DIRECTED AT HER AS WELL AS THE CONGRESS. SHE THEN WENT ON TO ACCUSE THE COMBINED OPPOSITION OF USING THE SESSION TO FOMENT DISUNITY WITHIN CONGRESS AND DEMANDED THAT CONGRESSMEN RESPECT PARTY DISCIPLINE IN THE FACT OF THESE DIVISIVE TACTICS OR LEAVE THE PARTY.

2. COMMENT: MRS. GANDHI'S ATTACK IS SIGNIFICANT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE GENERAL DETERIORATION IN RELATIONS BETWEEN HERSELF AND THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA (CPI) OVER THE PAST YEAR (NEW LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DELHI 8377). THE SHARPER TONE OF HER CRITICISM PROBABLY SPRINGS

FROM THE EMBARRASSING CORRUPTION DISCLOSURES THE OPPOSITION,
INCLUDING THE CPI, WAS ABLE TO ORCHESTRATE WITH GREAT FANFARE
DURING THE LAST SESSION OF PARLIAMENT. (SEE EMBASSY POLNOTE
"CORRUPTION THEME DOMINATES MONSOON SESSION OF PARLIAMENT" JUST
POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT SEPT. 13)
MOYNIHAN

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